

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 02342 121523Z

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ACTION EB-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, GR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR-USER CHARGES

REF: (A) STATE 56311 (B) ATHENS 2086 (C) ATHENS 2224

1. ON MARCH 12 COMATT AND N.H. PLUMMER, FAA/DOT, MET WITH FOUR REPRESENTATIVES OF HELLENIC CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY, HEADED BY MR. ANDREAS KATSOULIS, DIRECTOR, AIR TRANSPORT AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DIVISION, TO INFORMALLY DISCUSS EXEMPTION OF OLYMPIC AIRWAYS FROM EN ROUTE AND LANDING FEES.

2. DISCUSSION OF GOG COST RECOVERY POLICY FOR EN ROUTE FACILITIES INDICATED THAT GOG FOLLOWS EUROCONTROL POLICY AND HAS ESTABLISHED A CURRENT LEVEL OF RECOVERY AT 60 PERCENT TO BE INCREASED TO 70 PERCENT IN 1977. LEVEL OF RECOVERY FOR ATHENS AIRPORT COSTS COULD NOT BE SPECIFICALLY DETERMINED, BUT IS SUBSTANTIALLY LESS.

3. GOG OFFICIALS, WITHOUT PROVIDING FIGURES, MAINTAINED THAT COSTS ARE PROPERLY ALLOCATED AMONG THE VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF USERS EXCEPT THAT ALLOCATION TO GENERAL AVIATION IS LESS TO ENCOURAGE GROWTH.

4. THE PROPORTION OF OLYMPIC INTERNATIONAL AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS TO TOTAL INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENTS AT ATHENS AIRPORT WAS GIVEN AS 20 PERCENT FOR 1974 AND 13 PERCENT FOR 1975.

5. OLYMPIC IS EXEMPT FROM BOTH ENROUTE AND LANDING CHARGES.

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 02342 121523Z

THEY ASSERTED THAT A DETERMINATION IS MADE OF THE CHARGES DUE

OLYMPIC, AND THAT ACTUAL PAYMENT IS ACCOMPLISHED BY THE GOG. IT IS NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER, HOW THIS "PAYMENT" TAKES PLACE, SINCE THE GOG IS ALSO THE RECIPIENT. THIS ARRANGEMENT IS NOT CONSIDERED BY GOG TO BE DISCRIMINATORY UNDER THE CHICAGO CONVENTION BECAUSE THE AIRLINE PROVIDES VARIOUS SERVICES FOR THE GOVERNMENT WHICH ARE CONSIDERED TO BE ADEQUATE COMPENSATION OF THE USER CHARGES. WHILE NO INFORMATION COULD BE OBTAINED AT THIS MEETING AS TO COMPARATIVE VALUE OF THESE SERVICES WITH VALUE OF THE USER CHARGES FROM WHICH OLYMPIC IS EXEMPTED, CAA OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT OLYMPIC MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE DATA. IT APPEARS THAT OLYMPIC'S SERVICES TO THE GOG ARE PROVIDED CHIEFLY IN DOMESTIC FLIGHTS.

6. MR. KATSOULIS NOTED, IN CONNECTION WITH DISCUSSION OF CHICAGO CONVENTION ARTICLE 15, THAT AUSTRIA HAD RAISED QUESTIONS SOME YEARS AGO ABOUT OLYMPIC EXEMPTION, BUT HAD BEEN SATISFIED WITH GOG RESPONSE.

7. MEETING CONCLUDED WITH QUESTIONS CONCERNING U.S. CHARGING POLICIES, PARTICULARLY AT DULLES AIRPORT.

8. EMBASSY WISHES TO KEEP HELLENIC CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES FULLY INFORMED AND WOULD APPRECIATE BEING KEPT CURRENTLY INFORMED ON ANY STEPS BEING CONSIDERED UNDER THE FAIR COMPETITIVE PRACTICES ACT.
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